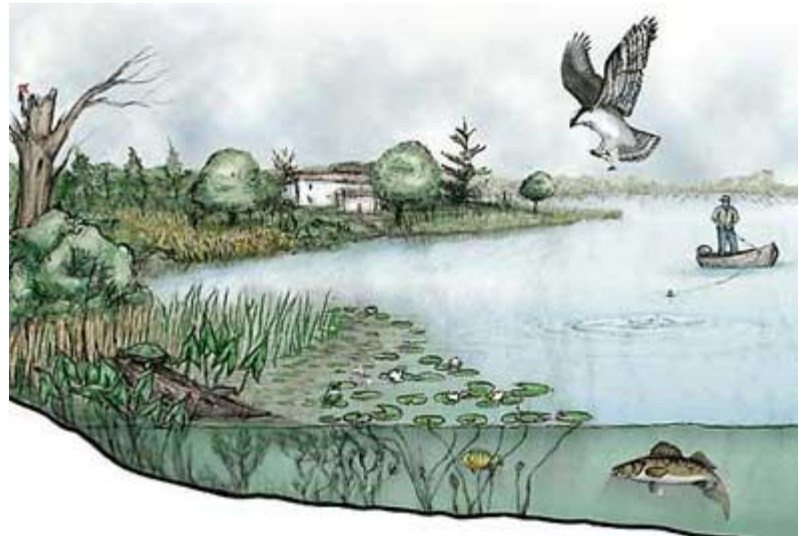




Ch. 3.3 How Introduced Species Affect Ecosystems



- **Native species** are plants and animals that naturally inhabit an area.
- **Introduced species** or **foreign species** are species that have been introduced into an ecosystem by **humans**, either intentionally or accidentally.
- They do not naturally inhabit the ecosystem.



- Introduced species are usually beneficial or harmless.
- Some introduced species, known as **invasive species**, can dramatically change or **destroy** ecosystems.



- With climate change and the expansion of international **trade** and **travel**, invasive species are entering new ecosystems at an increasing rate.



- This rapid spread of introduced invasive species is a major cause of global biodiversity loss.
- Introduced species can affect native species through competition, predation, disease, parasitism and habitat alterations.



ies

o British



treable growing in.

- Together with other intro competing with the keyst oak on Vancouver Island.

- European starlings outcompete native birds for **nesting** sites, and cause decreases in their populations.
- Barn owls are able to keep the numbers of starlings low in some areas.



- Eurasian milfoil forms mats on the surface of **waterways** and decrease the amount of **sunlight** available to organisms lower down.
- It is spread by **boat** traffic since it can regrow from small pieces.



- **Norway** rats eats a wide variety of foods, including preying on native species.



- Blister rust grows on the native **whitebark pine**, causing disease that kills the trees.



- Wild boars are considered one of the world's worst invasive species.
- Their behaviours spread weeds and interfere with natural succession and they **prey** on native species.



- **Purple loosestrife** is an introduced species, and the introduced loosestrife-eating beetle is proving to be a good way to control its spread

